

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/715,978

Applicant(s)

CHAN ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Ted T. Vo

2122

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 09/15/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-9,11-17,19-25 and 27-33.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 11/17/2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Ted T. Vo
TED T. VO
Patent Examiner

1. This communication is in response to the Amendment filed on 09/15/04 responsive to the Office action dated: 06/17/2004. The arguments given in remarks section (Remarks, pages 12-15) to newly amended limitations of independent Claims 1, 9, 17, 25, and 33 have been fully considered and persuasive. With further extensive searches, the references, Agarwal, US Pat. No. 6,286,129, and Jolissaint, US. Pat. No. 5,455,903, remain the closest arts of record.

Reasons for Allowance

2. Claims 1, 3-9, 11-17, 19-25, 27-33 are allowed.

Prior arts of record: Agarwal, US Pat. No. 6,286,129, discloses a workflow representing an application, contained within an interactive display and edit module, and within a program entity that employs a GUI. The program entity implements workflow steps in the form of an object that performs certain operations capable of illustrating various workflows and steps.

Prior art of record, Jolissaint, US Pat. No. 5,455,903, discloses an interactive voice response unit that comprises the run-time container and the workflow is operable to direct the operation of the voice response unit.

The rationale of combination is given that Jolissaint suggests voice response as a unit being automated by a workflow.

However, Applicants point out that an object of Agarwal is written to perform the activities required for a step of a workflow, so the object can not be a programming entity such as a run-time container operable to execute a workflow or a design-time container operable to design a workflow (Remarks, page 13, the full paragraph started line 20). Also, Applicants further point out that the Agarwal-Jolissaint fails to disclose the newly amended limitation that is functionality to a plurality of contacts (Remarks, page 14, the last nine lines of the page). Furthermore, Applicants point out that newly amended limitations and the citations in the independents Claims 9, 17, 25, and 33 are substantial similar to those recited in independent Claim 1.

Therefore, the following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The cited prior arts taken alone or in combination fail to teach claimed invention of systems, a method, application development software, comprising at least features,

a design-time container operable to edit the workflow; and

a plurality of contracts, a contract specifying an interaction between a workflow step and a programming entity, the interaction comprising a service that the programming entity provides for the workflow step when the workflow step is executed, the workflow step and the contract operable to be used for a next workflow, the plurality of contracts comprising:

a first contract specifying that the design-time container is to retrieve input data for a first workflow step when the first workflow step is executed; and

a second contract specifying that the run-time container is to play a message in response to a triggering event for a second workflow step when the second workflow step is executed;

the design-time container further operable to retrieve input data according to the first contract",

as recited in such manners in independent Claims 1, 9, 17, 25, and 33.

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ted T. Vo whose telephone number is (571) 272-3706. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00AM to 5:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tuan Q. Dam can be reached on (571) 272-3694. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through

Application/Control Number: 09/715,978
Art Unit: 2122

Page 4

Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ted T. Vo', with a stylized, cursive script.

Ted T. Vo
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2122
December 13, 2004